

completing 37 years of distinguished service to our Nation.

General Carlson currently serves as the Commander of the Air Force Materiel Command—AFMC—in Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH. As Commander of AFMC, General Carlson manages the command's 77,000 people in research, development, test, and evaluation while providing the acquisition management services and logistics support required to develop, procure, and sustain Air Force weapon systems. His workforce of active duty, civilian, and contractor personnel are the unsung heroes, managing an annual budget of over \$56 billion, more than 40 percent of the total AF budget, and ensuring our warfighters are equipped with the best equipment in the world.

General Carlson was born in Hibbing, MN, and began his accomplished career in 1971 when he graduated as a "Distinguished Graduate" from the Air Force ROTC program at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. From the day he pinned on his butter bars through his four silver stars, Gen Bruce Carlson has been a leader and continues to lead and mentor airmen in the air and on the ground.

After graduating from the University of Minnesota, he went on to undergraduate pilot training at Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma—a base I know well and the finest pilot training base in the U.S. His first assignment out of pilot training was in the F-4 Phantom II and then he transitioned into the OV-10 Bronco and A-10 Warthog. During his career he logged over 3,300 flying hours to include combat time in the OV-10. His work ethic and unparalleled skill resulted in his posting to positions of influence in the offices of the Secretary of the Air Force and Secretary of Defense. His skill as a pilot and a leader led to various flying assignments, including commanding the 49th Fighter Wing at Holloman Air Force Base, NM, the Air Force's first stealth fighter wing.

As with every great officer, his star continued to rise as he met every promotion with dedication and integrity. Moving on to serve as the Director of Force Structure, Resources, and Assessment on the Joint Staff and finally, prior to assuming Command of AFMC, General Carlson served as the Commander, 8th Air Force, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana and Joint Functional Component Commander for Space and Global Strike, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, NE.

General Carlson has received several distinguished awards including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and the 2007 Order of the Sword, Air Force Materiel Command. He was also awarded master's degrees from Webster University in St. Louis, MO, and the Naval War College in Newport, RI.

In the Chief of Staff's recommendation for the Order of the Sword, Gen-

eral Schwarz wrote, "General Carlson culminates a distinguished career of more than 37 years of Air Force service, with focused leadership, a selfless commitment to excellence and tireless dedication. His vision and leadership transformed Air Force Materiel Command into the preeminent provider of war-winning capabilities . . ." I cannot agree more. In an era of persistent conflict and constrained budgets, General Carlson's dedication to making sure the warfighter has what he needs to fight and win is inspiring.

I offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to Gen Bruce Carlson, his wife Vicki, and his three children, Bryan, Jani, and Scott. The strength of our airmen is in their families, and their support allowed him to dedicate 37 years of leadership and service to the men and women of the Air Force and our country. I wish him and his family well in all his future endeavors. ●

TRIBUTE TO PABLO RAUL ALARCON

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I honor the life of Pablo Raul Alarcon. His dedication and achievements in overcoming the tyranny of the Castro regime to found the largest publicly traded Hispanic-controlled media company in America stands as a powerful example of the realization of the American dream. While we mourn the passing of this broadcasting pioneer, we celebrate his legacy and the profound impact his life has had on the United States.

Today, the Spanish Broadcasting System owns and operates 20 radio stations across the country, including the No. 1 Spanish-language radio station in America—which I have the privilege of listening to when I am home in New Jersey. They own a popular television station and operate a bilingual Web site dedicated to Latino culture and news. Under the exemplary leadership of Mr. Alarcon's son, Raul Alarcon, Jr., SBS continues to be the gold standard in Hispanic-operated broadcasting.

The Alarcons were born in Cuba, where Pablo Raul Alarcon founded his first radio station in 1951. He found success creating a network of 14 stations across the country, which were ultimately seized by the Castro dictatorship. The Alarcons fled to America with few possessions. But the tyranny of Castro could not crush the spirit of their entrepreneurship. Mr. Alarcon worked his way up in Spanish language radio, doing programming, sales, and advertising. In 1983 Mr. Alarcon and his son, Raul Alarcon, Jr., fulfilled their long-held dream of once again owning a broadcast station. They purchased a small AM station licensed in my home State and created the first Spanish language format to be introduced into the New York/New Jersey market in over 25 years.

Since 1983, the Alarcons have overseen the expansion of SBS to become one of the premier Hispanic-controlled

broadcast companies in America. Soon after its founding, SBS expanded to Los Angeles and Miami. In 1993, their KLAX-FM station achieved a historic overall No. 1 ranking in southern California.

As the torch was passed from father to son, SBS continued its rise. In 1999, SBS completed the second largest IPO in radio history and continued expanding their network of broadcast stations. That same year, SBS went online with the purchase of lamusica.com. In 2001, SBS produced a sell-out Madison Square Garden charity concert to honor the victims of September 11. In 2006, SBS entered the television broadcasting business with the creation of the MEGA-TV network.

Raul Alarcon, Jr., is well known for his tremendous successes as the president and CEO of SBS. He has been recognized as one of the 100 most influential Hispanics and as one of the 40 most powerful people in radio. In 1994, Raul Alarcon, Jr., was given the Lifetime Achievement Award for Business Excellence. In 1995, he received both the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and the Human Rights Committee Radio Contributions Award. He has testified before Congress and his position as an authority in the field of minority media ownership is unparalleled.

There is no doubt that the Alarcons exhibit the embodiment of the American dream. When a cruel dictatorship destroyed their life's work, they came to America and started over by creating a company that impacts the lives of millions of Americans. So I am pleased to pay tribute to the Spanish Broadcasting System, to honor the passing of Pablo Raul Alarcon, and to recognize the tremendous achievement of Raul Alarcon, Jr., in carrying on his father's legacy. ●

RECOGNIZING KATE'S HOMEMADE BUTTER

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I recognize Kate's Homemade Butter of Old Orchard Beach, ME, a family-owned company whose attention to detail and excellence recently earned it the top honors at the World Dairy Expo, also known as the Academy Awards of the dairy industry.

Kate's Homemade Butter is a dairy farm that is recognized worldwide for producing slow-churned butter. The recipe for fresh homemade butter has been passed down for four generations, dating back to the early 1900s. In 1981, Daniel Patry, founder and president of Kate's Homemade Butter, unleashed his family secret and developed it into an award-winning, profitable business. In 2005, Daniel's son Lucas joined the company to continue a family tradition.

The Patry family is committed to maintaining the degree of quality that originated back in the early 1900s. They have stayed true to their grandfather, Alphonse Hemond, who passed down the family secrets to his son, Roland Hemond. Daniel Patry, learned